



Richard Shumsky
Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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January 27, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Richard N. Shumsky *RS*
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: SUPERVISION OF SEX REGISTRANTS ON PROBATION

This memorandum is in response to the motion of Supervisor Antonovich on January 14, 2003 requesting the Chief Probation Officer to report on the Department's methods of supervising registered sex offenders.

The specific responsibility of the Los Angeles County Probation Department is to ensure that sex offenders under supervision are registered with the California Department of Justice. Of the 1085 sex offenders currently under probation supervision, 90% are correctly registered. The exceptions (generally less than 10% at any given time) are those probationers who are in custody, have just received probation, or are being returned to court for violation. Within 48 hours of their release from custody and availability for intake assessment, the Department shall: (1) require these probationers to register with law enforcement if this had previously not been completed, or (2) verify the registration for those probationers who should have previously registered.

In compliance with Section 290 of the Penal Code, all sex offenders must register with the California Department of Justice, through the local law enforcement agency closest to his/her place of residence, within five days of conviction or release from custody, or when changing his/her address. Registration is also required annually thereafter, within five days of the registrant's birth date.

Recognizing that sex offenders pose a heightened risk to the community and require a higher frequency of supervision and monitoring, the Probation Department provides a more intensive level of supervision than is afforded most adult probationers. These cases are assigned to Adult Bureau's specialized Child Threat (CTH) caseloads, with a supervision ratio of no more than 73 probationers to each Deputy Probation Officer. Supervision requirements for CTH caseloads include, but are not limited to:

- **Monthly face to face contacts:** At least one in person contact is required monthly. This contact may take place in the office or in the field, at the probationer's residence or place of employment. The frequency of residence and/or employment visits varies depending on the level of threat determined by the Probation Officer. The Megan's Law database and the Violent Crime Information Network (VCIN) are used to verify "High Risk" and "Serious Risk" status.
- **Home visits and address verification:** During home visits, the Deputy verifies that the probationer resides at his/her stated address and assesses the probationer's access to the victim(s) and other potential victims. If children reside in the probationer's home, the Deputy assesses the situation and is cognizant of any signs of abuse or mistreatment.
- **Monitoring compliance with 290 PC:** The probationer's current and past addresses are maintained in the automated Adult Probation System. The validity of the address is verified by Finalist software as well as home visits. The probationer's address is then cross-checked against the Megan's Law database listed registration address to ensure there is a match. Any deviation is subject to a violation of probation.
- **Monitoring compliance with all Court orders and conditions of probation:** The Deputy monitors all Court-ordered conditions of probation, including compliance with any orders for treatment or therapy, community service and payment of restitution, fines and fees. The required completion of annual registration or updated registration shall also be monitored. Any deviation is subject to a violation of probation.

Supervision of sex offenders remains one of the highest priorities for the Department. Child Threat Deputy Probation Officers will continue to aggressively monitor offenders on their caseloads to ensure compliance with all conditions of probation including the mandatory registration.

RS:nm